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care of all of these problems that have been facing the local rural communities, then?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, and I am certainly very seriously interested in supporting the volunteers in the small communities throughout the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I would like to speak in full support of this bill. Previously, the emergency units in my district, Kearney, Ravenna, Gibbon, Shelton, Wood River were opposed to the original bill but with these amendments, and I spent considerable time a week ago when I was home, talking to the men of the units and they are now in full support of the bill which means that the amendments did the job.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it seems that it is pretty well established that all of the volunteer fire departments and others in the villages have accepted the amendments that Senator Kennedy has proposed but Senator Kennedy, I would like to pose a question to you. Do we have reasonable assurance or do we have definite assurance that now this would meet with the federal guidelines and that we would be home free under the pressure that we are subjected to of passing this type of legislation prior to July 15th?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Senator Burbach, I have assurance by telephone and by conversation, not written assurance and they cannot give it to us until the amendments are adopted and the bill is adopted as prescribed, but I think we can get written assurance but I do have telephone conversation assurance that this will qualify us under those rules.

SENATOR BURBACH: Well, evidently, it is very important that we do pass this legislation at this time so that you or someone else in the Legislature could forward this legislation and have the approval prior to the adjournment sine die of this body, then. Is this correct?

SENATOR KENNEDY: I would hope to do that as soon as it is passed once on General File. I have had...certainly had that assurance verbally but not in writing and will make that request as soon as it is passed on General File.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President and members of the body, first I have been hearing a lot about everybody is in 100% agreement and I can assure you, they are not. Senator Kennedy, how many millions of dollars is involved in this bill, whether we pass it or we don't?

SENATOR KENNEDY: I guess I can't answer that at all, Senator Rasmussen. We were threatened with figures a year ago but